

03500.014969



PATENT APPLICATION

#7
IDS 2861
D. Small
B. Logan

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

41002

In re Application of:)
HIROKI HAYASHI, et al.)
Application No.: 09/726,021 ✓)
Filed: November 30, 2000)
For: SURFACE REFORMED FIBER BODY,)
LIQUID CONTAINER USING FIBER)
ABSORBER AND METHOD OF)
PRODUCING FIBER ABSORBER FOR)
USE IN LIQUID EJECTION)
Examiner: M. Nghiem
Group Art Unit: 2861
April 3, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

Europe 635,373
Europe 771,662
Europe 869,006
PCT/WO 00/05073

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated February 11, 2002, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than

three months prior to the filing of this Statement. Moreover, inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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